



AN CANACH



President's Quarterly Message—Louis Russell

From the President's Desk June 2026

Dear Society Members

From the President's Desk

I hope everyone is enjoying the spring season and the start of summer. Here in Iowa, the weather has been beautiful—warm temperatures, relatively low humidity, and, for now, very few bugs. We're enjoying it while it lasts!

2026 Board Meeting and Annual General Meeting

Thanks in part to the efforts of MaryLane Henderson and Phil Embry for all their organization, Clan Henderson Society recently held another successful Board Meeting and Annual General Meeting. The venue was excellent, and the weather fully cooperated. Several important topics were addressed, including approval of the 2026 budget, election of officers, and the establishment of a new role: Vice President of Communication.

The officers for the 2027–2028 term are as follows:

- Mark Henderson, President
- Louis Russell, VP Operations
- Christian Henderson, VP Members
- Vincent Henderson III, Legal Counsel
- Greg Lamberson, VP Genealogy/DNA
- Eric Erickson, VP Communication
- Fossier, Treasurer
- Sue Hoffman, Secretary

Eric Erickson accepted the nomination and was elected for newly created position, Vice President Communication. In this position, Eric will help improve communication within our Society. This position will work closely with VP Members and VP Opps in support of the Society improving global communication and ensure new members are provided with appropriate information welcoming them into CHS. Please join me in congratulating Eric on this new position.

Please mark your calendars: the 2027 Annual General Meeting will be hosted

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by Mike Pollini, Northeast Regional Commissioner, at the New Hampshire Highland Games and Festival, September 15–17.

CHS Scholarship Program

The Society is grateful for the continued efforts of the Scholarship Committee—Audrey Trawick (Chair), Ann Hicks, and Grame Dodworth. This year, nine scholarships were awarded to artists from both the United States and Australia. Additional details are included elsewhere in this issue. Thank you to the committee for their outstanding work.

CHS Website

I would also like to recognize Katherine Emerson for her contributions to the Society. She has done an exceptional job streamlining our website and reducing associated costs. As she is now focused on graduate studies, she is stepping back from this role. Please join me in thanking Katherine for her dedication and excellent work.

As a result, Clan Henderson now has an immediate opening for a **Webpage Manager**. This is a great opportunity to contribute during an exciting period of transition and improvement. We are currently undertaking several updates to our digital presence, and this role will be key to that effort.

In addition, Greg Lamberson, VP Genealogy/DNA, is developing a new website platform that will integrate accounting and membership databases into a single, streamlined system—reducing maintenance costs and improving functionality.

If you are interested in the Webpage Manager position, please contact Eric Erickson at: HendersonClanCommunications@gmail.com

Thank you to everyone for your continued efforts in keeping the Clan Henderson Society vibrant and strong.

Sincerely,
Louis Russell



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Last Mass Mailed An Canach

The An Canach Goes Electronic

The Clan Henderson Society's Executive Committee continually seeks ways to provide useful and efficient services to our membership. As part of this effort, we are working to reduce the costs associated with printing and mailing our quarterly newsletter, *An Canach*. While we greatly value the newsletter, producing and distributing hard copies currently represents a significant portion of our annual budget, and we want to ensure we are using Society resources wisely.

To support this goal, a concerted effort was made to contact all members and determine whether they would prefer receiving *An Canach* electronically. Many members responded positively, indicating they are happy to read the newsletter on their computer, tablet, or e-reader, or to print a copy using their home printer.

However, some members responded that they do not have access to email or that they were not comfortable reading electronic documents. Therefore, the plan is to print and mail the An Canach to our members requiring a printed copy.

This marks our first "electronic" issue.

Thank you for helping us modernize and economize where possible. We truly appreciate your support and look forward to sharing many more editions of *An Canach* with you in the years ahead.

Louis Russell

Youth News



MEMORIAL DAY—REMEMBRANCES

Memorial Day, in the United States, holiday (last Monday in May) honoring those who have died while serving in the country's armed forces. It originated during the American Civil War when citizens placed flowers on the graves of those who had been killed in battle. The first national observance was in 1868. After World War I, the name was changed to Memorial Day, and in 1971 it became a federal holiday. The day is observed by visits to cemeteries, where flags and other items are placed on the graves of veterans. There are also parades and ceremonies. In addition, Memorial Day is considered the start of summer in the United States.

Charles Goring

Having spent 28 years in the Army and being the proud parent of two fine men who wore uniforms for over 45 years and served in multiple combat zones, Memorial Day holds special meaning for me. However, I can't help but think of my uncle on this day every year. Charles Goring enlisted in the Army in 1933 during the depression. He was assigned to a Cavalry unit and remained a private until 1941. As he said "I shovelled horse manure every day until Pearl harbor, when all of a sudden it qualified me to be a Lieutenant". Uncle Charley landed with the 28th Infantry Division at D-Day, fought across France and was severely wounded at the Battle of the Bulge". By the war's end he was a Major. I had the distinct honor, when I was commissioned, of having Uncle Charley pin my bars on my shoulders. I always felt he watched over me during my career.

Rest in Peace, Uncle Charley.

Mark Henderson

Donald Wayne Etler

Elsie Jane Henderson, daughter of Henry and Eva Henderson was born in Ida County, Iowa in 1898. A country school teacher, she married a local farmer, Bert Etler in 1920. They welcomed their second child and first son, Donald Wayne Etler, in 1923. In October of 1943 Donald boarded a bus in Ida Grove to go to Des Moines to join the Navy, but a Marine Corps recruiter convinced him to become a Marine. The Marines were in emergency build up so he missed preinduction leave and was put on a train for boot camp in San Diego. He was inducted into the 3rd JASCO, Headquarters Battalion, Third Marine Division. In July 1944 PFC Donald Wayne Etler was seriously wounded by a Japanese mortar round in the invasion of Guam. He died early the following morning in sick bay of the USS Crescent City. He was buried on Guam and was later moved to Hawaii. In December 1948 he was returned to Ida County and was permanently laid to rest at Mt. Hope Cemetery, Battle Creek, Iowa on his brother's, my father's, birthday.

Donald Etler



Hal Kent Henderson

First Lieutenant Hal Kent Henderson was born on September 5, 1944, in Bozeman, Montana. A proud member of the Air Force Academy Class of 1967, he was a dedicated athlete who played hockey throughout his time at the Academy. While a cadet, he also served as an Honor Representative, demonstrating a deep commitment to the values of integrity and leadership. During the Vietnam War, he served as a Forward Air Controller with the 20th Tactical Air Support Squadron out of Da Nang, providing vital aerial support to the 101st Airborne Division. After serving 110 days in combat, the 24-year-old husband and officer gave his life in service to his country.

Thank you,
Eric

THE KILT: A BRIEF HISTORY



The Great Kilt (Fèileadh Mòr)

The original, large belted plaid, known as the Great Kilt (Fèileadh Mòr), emerged in the 16th century. It was a single piece of wool, up to 18 yards long, worn by Highland men for warmth and practicality.



The Small Kilt (Fèileadh Beag)

The Small Kilt (Fèileadh Beag), the modern half-kilt, emerged around 1725. It was adapted from the lower portion of the Great Kilt for industrial work.



Revival and Modernity

The kilt was then romanticized and standardized by Victorian era. Today, it is the national dress of Scotland, worn worldwide for celebrations, ceremonies, and sporting events.



CONGRATULATIONS LONGEVITY AWARDS

South Pacific	283	PHILLIPS	Larry L.	Wahiawa	HI	USA	1990	35
Mid East	346	HENDERSON	Joseph P.	Fair Lawn	NJ	USA	1991	35
South East	388	HENDERSON	James S.	Kershaw	SC	USA	1991	35
South East	386	KEIFER	Harry J.	Lilburn	GA	USA	1991	35
North East	713	OPPENHEIMER	Christine Crawford	Hyde Park	NY	USA	1992	25
Central	2211	GOODIN	Robert B.	Carlton	MN	USA	1998	25
Far South	3501	McGOWAN	Mary Frances Henderson	Belton	TX	USA	2007	15
Mid East	3733	HENDERSON	Marc Robert	Annandale	VA	USA	2010	15
Mid South	3750	HENDERSON	Teresa	Athens	AL	USA	2010	15
Mid South	3750	HENDERSON	Michael R.	Athens	AL	USA	2010	15
Great Lakes	3771	HENDERSON	Jacqueline	Powell	OH	USA	2011	15
South East	3777	HENDERSON	Jimmie D.	Hudson	FL	USA	2011	15
Far South	3813	MYER	Paula Henderson	Austin	TX	USA	2011	15
Mid South	4464	WHITE	Jodie	Lebanon	TN	USA	2016	15
South East	4651	GERZINA	Jack	Stuart	FL	USA	2017	5
South East	5014	HENDERSON	Thomas	Charleston	SC	USA	2019	5
Great Lakes	5140	LAMBERSON	Greg	Mount Vernon	IL	USA	2021	5
South Pacific	5210	Henderson	Reba	Santa Rosa	CA	USA	2021	5

NEW LIFETIME MEMEBERS

3733	ERERA	Lauren	Annandale	VA	USA
3733	HENDERSON	Marc Robert	Annandale	VA	USA
846	HENDERSON	Ross	O Brien	FL	USA

NEW MEMEBERS

Pacific	5585	HENDERSON	Jaxon	Glendora	CA	USA
Far South	5586	CLARY	Sidney Henderson	D'Hanis	TX	USA
South East	5587	HENDERSON	Paul Jennings	Ponte Vedra	FL	USA
Far South	5588	GUINN	James	Fort Worth	TX	USA
South East	5589	BAUGHN	Marilyn	Hayesville	NC	USA

Here's a schedule of games in the South East.
Mary Lane Henderson

June 19-21 Taste of Scotland & Celtic
Games Franklin, NC

June 6&7 Georgia Mtn Scottish Games
Alan B Henderson
Hiawassee, Ga

July 9-12 Grandfather Mtn Highland Games
Mary Lane Henderson
Linville, NC
Jan Burdette Ed Hendricks

Sept 25 North Georgia Highland Games
Alan B Henderson
Clayton, Ga

Oct 3 Scotland Co. Highland Games
Kyle & Susan Henderson
Laurinburg, NC

Oct 17 Crystal Coast Highland Games
Bill & Beth Henderson
Beaufort, NC

Oct 17&18 Stone Mtn Highland Games
Deming Bass
Stone Mountain, Stone Mtn, Ga
Cancelled Charleston Scottish Games



Connections with Strangers

Have you ever been surprised by a stranger touching you when you never expect that to happen? I have had two incidents through Clan Henderson. The first one was a person who wanted to connect with Hendersons. The second was at the Highland Games in Ormond Beach, Florida.

Mark Henderson asked me to contact a family who had a dying father who had Henderson roots. As Clan Henderson Chaplain, I had several email conversations with the son who was in England.

Then, at convening a Clan Henderson tent a man stopped by with questions. Our conversation brought lead to me asking where he was from. I found out he went to the same church when I was a teenager. His grandmother prayed in Gaelic every night. On top of that, she was my Sunday School teacher when I was 5 years old. One never knows who you will meet when convening at a Scottish Highland Games.

It is astounding how a connection happens. For me, it was convening at an event. Hebrews 13:2 tells us, “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” This verse suggests that an unexpected connection may carry spiritual weight — even divine purpose — beyond what you can see. Who might you connect with through our Clan Henderson?

Dr. Daniel Henderson
Clan Henderson Chaplain

Flowers of the Forest



Flowers of the Forest:

Sharon Akers wrote that her father, **John Bergquist**, passed away in January of 2023. John was formerly the Clan Henderson Society's Clan Piper. Sharon writes: "Dad really enjoyed piping for your clan and we both have fond memories." May his memory be accompanied by pipe music.

Suzanne Henderson Emerson
VP, Members
Clan Henderson Society

Dorothy June Henderson (Dottie) passed away June 25, 2025. Her husband, Ret. Commander **Lee Herman Henderson** passed away May 3, 2026. They were members of Clan Henderson Society. Commander Lee Henderson was a distinguished navy pilot and avid sailor. Dottie was a nurse, worked in Hospice, and enjoyed sailing with her family. She was actively involved in her Scottish heritage, serving as Recording Secretary for Clan Henderson and was a member of Clan Hamilton.

More information can be found:

Dorothy June Henderson <https://www.riemannfamily.com/obituaries/dorothy-henderson>
Ret. Commander Lee Herman Henderson <https://www.riemannfamily.com/obituaries/lee-henderson>

AN CANACH DEADLINES FOR 2026

Publish by: tor **Deadline to Edi-**

**September 1
December 1**

**August 15
November 15**

Please send to

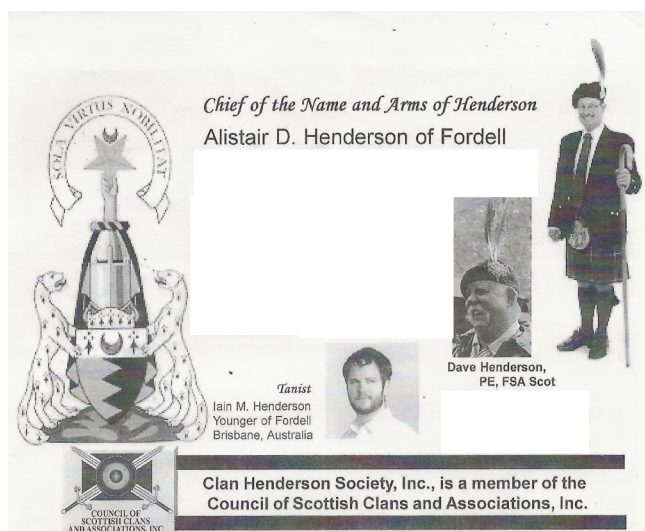
`hendersonclannews@gmail.com`

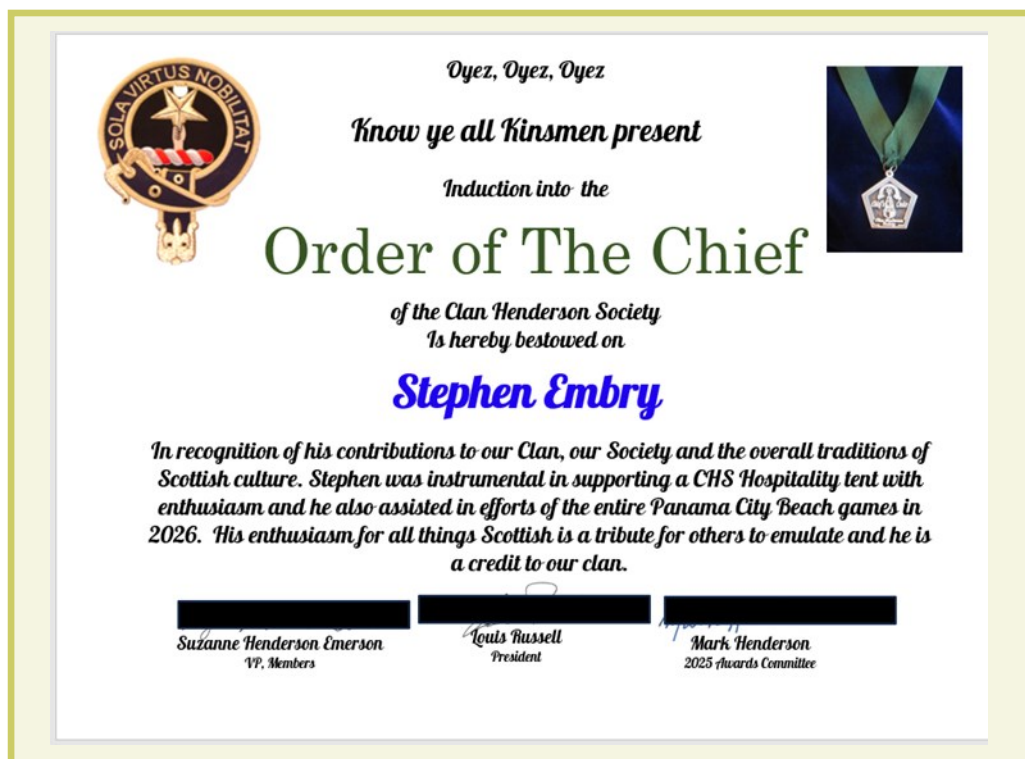
At any time.

**If you are late please let me know how much
space (# words and pictures)
you will need and I will plan accordingly.**

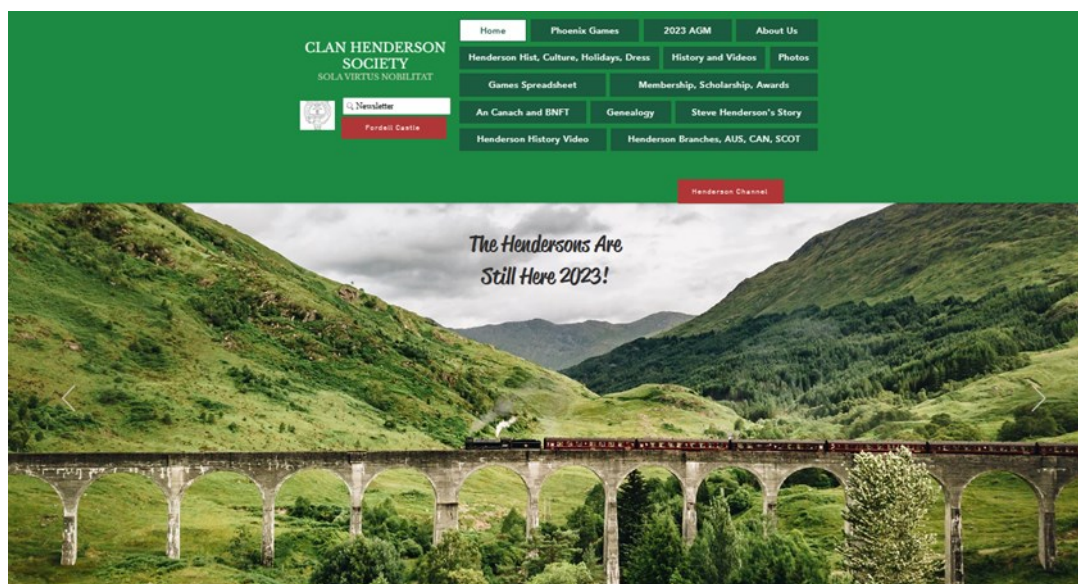
Facebook Also has up to date activities of the Henderson Clan see link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/clanhendersonsociety/permalink/10160474829769654/?mibextid=Nif5oz>





Visit the Clan Henderson Website!
clanhendersonsociety.com





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